

As a volunteer for the Champaign-Urbana Community Wireless Project (CUWiN) in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, I have taken part in and seen first hand the impact that caring people can have in helping to cross technological gaps that even the largest telecommunications companies are unable to bridge.

I urge the FCC to continue to offer more unlicensed spectrum so that projects like BAWUG, CUWiN, NYCwireless, Personal Telco Project, SeattleWireless, and others can grow and so that wireless technology can achieve its full potential. In the course of this NPRM, I endorse the comments made by "NYCwireless, et al". Having access to the 3650-3700 MHz space with both high and low power mobile unlicensed devices would be very useful. In particular I staunchly agree with "NYCwireless, et al" that the FCC should not adopt the proposal for requiring professional installer certification for all of the reasons cited in "NYCwireless, et al".

Even though I have little free time outside of my professional duties, and even though some of those times I could get some rest to prepare for the day to come or relax with family and friends, I choose to volunteer that time as a concerned citizen to assist my local community wireless network (CWN). I volunteer that time to my community because I believe that as a United States citizen I must be proactive in helping where help is needed most.

Many times, that help is needed in building out our local wireless network. I have assisted in the installation of four wireless nodes in our local network and would like to assist in more. I am very proud of what CUWiN has achieved and look forward to what we and our sister projects will achieve next.

Should a requirement be adopted for installers to be professionally certified, though, I am uncertain that I have the time or money to prepare for and attain this certification, regardless of my great desire to help my local community wireless project. I know that some of those who help us install our wireless equipment are in a similar position. We are the volunteers who believe that this kind of network (an ad-hoc, distributed, mesh deployment) has a major role to play in the future of American telecommunications. For those lucky enough to be connected to them now, these networks are playing that major role already!

Our community's relatively rural location (at least 100 miles from Chicago, Indianapolis, and Saint Louis) creates an additional hurdle since certifying tests may only be held in urban areas. In even more remote part of the United States, these certification tests may be held so far away that the barrier to entry could be insurmountable, preventing community-based initiatives from forming where they are needed most.

I hail the FCC in proposing that more unlicensed spectrum in the public's commons be made available for public and private use on equal terms and equal footing. This freeing of the airwaves is a wonderful device that advances the state-of-the-art in radio communications while allowing community-run organizations and entrepreneurships to bring US communities tomorrow's technologies today.

Thanks to the input of concerned public groups and citizens, as more unlicensed spectrum becomes available for use and new wireless devices are deployed in the field which do not require installer certification, our country will see continued economic growth and even deeper broadband penetration into underserved and rural areas -- satisfying at once goals shared by the FCC, private business, and the public interest.

For more information on the wireless groups I mention in my comment, visit the website URLs included below.

BAWUG - <http://www.bawug.org/>
CUWiN - <http://www.cuwireless.net/>
NYCwireless - <http://www.nycwireless.net/>
Personal Telco Project - <http://www.personaltelco.net/>
SeattleWireless - <http://www.seattlewireless.net/>

For a listing of free network organizations, visit FreeNetworks at <http://www.freenetworks.org/>.